



The following information comprises the minutes for a regular meeting of the City Council, a joint meeting of the Banning City Council and Banning Utility Authority and a joint meeting of the Banning City Council and the Banning City Council sitting in its capacity as the Successor Agency Board.

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL**

**7/12/2022
REGULAR MEETING**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Mary Hamlin
Mayor Kyle Pingree
Council Member Alberto Sanchez
Mayor Pro Tem Colleen Wallace

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member David Happe

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Schulze, City Manager
Kevin Ennis, City Attorney
Marie Calderon, City Clerk
Caroline Patton, Deputy City Clerk
Art Vela, Director of Public Works
Lincoln Bogard, Finance Director
Thomas Miller, Electric Utility Director
Adam Rush, Community Development Director
Laurie Sampson, Assistant City Manager
John Garside, Multimedia Specialist

*Participated via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pingree called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- 1.1. Invocation – Matthew Hamner, Chief of Police, performed the invocation.
- 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro Tem Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.3. Roll Call

COUNCIL MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X	
Happe, David		X
Pingree, Kyle	X	
Sanchez, Alberto	X	
Wallace, Colleen	X	

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

2.1. Approve Agenda

Add item 8.7. to fill a pending Council vacancy

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

Seconded by Council Member Sanchez

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

3. PRESENTATION(S)

3.1. Visit from Banning Animal Shelter Pet of the Month – *Not in attendance*

3.2. Ramsey Street Village Homeless Shelter Success Story – *Moved to later in the agenda.*

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

4.1. *Moved to later in the agenda*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, APPOINTMENTS, CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS, CITY MANAGER REPORT, AND CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

5.1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Inge Schuler said that Mayor Pingree had contacted her to say they were moving, which she felt was inappropriate. She asked about a public notice that had been circulated for an item that was not agendized.

Frank Burgess said he received a copy of statements made on Facebook by the City Manager's wife, which he read excerpts from aloud. He said he had been in the city for 60 years.

Sheri Flynn gave a background on her recall process to date, stating that the Deputy City Clerk had illegally scanned the petition pages and removed names from her petition. She commented on a rumor she heard about the

City Manager with which she disagreed. She suggested the City Manager was stirring up rumors to counter her recall process.

Bill Hobbs said he was upset about comments made on a private Facebook group, saying he disagreed with the actions of the moderators of said Facebook group. He responded directly to comments he saw on the page and gave kudos to Frank Burgess.

Diego Rose commented on the City Manager's wife's comments on a private Facebook group. He said he had lived in the city for 14 years and he felt he could do more for the city as a private citizen and not a Council Member. He said Frank Burgess sued the city to create Council districts.

Stuart McKenzie commented on poisons in diesel fumes, saying the planned warehouses will bring poison fumes. He said the dais used to say, "healthy living" and they are not acknowledging that. He suggested the city change its motto to "no health no opportunity."

Maggie Scott said the big rigs on Williams Street back up to the street. She said she thinks the owner should have to put up a wall so that residents don't have to look at the trucks.

Cindy Barrington suggested the time allowed for public comment be extended to five minutes. She said it was unfair that the public has time limits and the City Council does not.

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

- 4.1 City Attorney Ennis reported on the items discussed during the 3:30 p.m. closed session. Agenda item 3.1 had no final or reportable action. For agenda item 3.2, direction was given to the city negotiator with no final action. On agenda items 3.3-3.6, direction was given to negotiators with no final action. City Manager Schulze recused himself. On agenda item 3.7, direction was given with no final action.

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- 5.2. CORRESPONDENCE
None

- 5.3. APPOINTMENTS

- 5.3.1. Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate for the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference

Motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Wallace as voting delegate and Council Member Sanchez as voting alternate.

Motion by Mayor Pingree

Seconded by Council Member Hamlin

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

- 5.3.2. Making Appointments to the City's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to Participate in the City's Update to the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the General Plan

Motion to appoint Council Members Wallace and Sanchez to the General Plan Advisory Committee.

Motion by Mayor Pingree

Seconded by Council Member Sanchez

Public Comments

Inge Schuler said she disagreed with having developers on the committee and too little public representation. She said she knew of many people who would love to participate but were not asked, and that they all knew what the developers were going to do to the town.

Frank Burgess said he thought there was an ordinance that committee members had to be residents of the city. He suggested the developers would have a conflict of interest in serving on the committee. He spoke about land he donated to the city that he felt was never recognized.

Cindy Barrington said she could not find any information on the General Plan Advisory Committee on the City's website or Facebook account. She felt there was a stacked deck against what the people of the city really want and suggested the City add 3 additional seats for members of the public.

Sheri Flynn said the member of the public suggested by staff was an agent of the City Manager's wife, which she felt was a conflict of interest.

Bill Hobbs said he concurs with the prior commenters and was opposed to Frank Diaz being a member of the General Plan Advisory Committee. He made comments related to other members of the community.

Staff responded to concerns voiced by the public, including an explanation of conflict of interest laws.

Previous motion retracted.

Motion to appoint all recommended officials and authorizing the Community Development Director and Mayor to decide on the remaining community representative.

Motion by Council Member Sanchez
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

Moved from earlier in the meeting agenda.

3.2. Ramsey Street Village Homeless Shelter Success Story

Angelina Morales said she used to live in Ramsey Street Village before the fire destroyed it. The shelter helped her get a fresh start and now she is working three jobs and has received a housing voucher that will allow her to get her own place with her daughter, hopefully in Banning. Mayor Pro Tem Wallace emphasized that she was from Banning and the shelter helped her grow and stay in Banning.

5.4. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Wallace reported on Cal Cities and Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) meetings, where the need to conserve water was highlighted.

Mayor Pingree reported on the Grand Reopening of East Ramsey Street at the Hathaway Street intersection.

5.5. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Doug Schulze reported on progress at Opportunity Village as well as a proposal for improvements to the property adjacent to the San Gorgonio Pass Boys and Girls Club building. He also mentioned the upcoming municipal election and candidate information session being held Thursday, July 14th for anyone interested in running.

5.6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

6. CONSENT ITEMS

- 7.1. Approval of Minutes of the June 28, 2022 City Council Meetings
- 7.2. Consideration of Resolution 2022-93, Approving Nuisance Abatement Charges to be Added to the Tax Rolls of Riverside County, California
- 7.3. Consideration of Resolution 2022-96, Approving Amendment No. 1 to the Contract Agreement with CASC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. ("CASC") for Consulting Services Associated Focused General Plan Update Services for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 in the amount of \$71,252 for a total of \$186,734
- 7.4. Consideration of Resolution 2022-98, Establishing an Employee Volunteerism Program
- 7.5. Consideration of Resolution 2022-99, Establishing a Pre-Qualified Professional Engineering On-Call Vendor List
- 7.6. Consideration of Resolution 2022-100, Approving Amendment No. 1 for \$25,000 to an Agreement with Regional Government Services (RGS) for Recruitment Services in Fiscal Year 2022 for a Total of \$50,000; Approving an Agreement for Recruitment Services for \$25,000 Fiscal Year 2023; and Approving an Agreement to Implement NeoGov for \$25,000
- 7.7. Consideration of Resolution 2022-07 UA, Awarding a Professional Services Agreement for Leak Detection Survey, McKim & Creed in the amount of \$29,732
- 7.8. Consideration of Resolution 2022-08 UA, Approving Amendment No. 5 to the Maintenance and Operations Agreement with Veolia Water Contract Operations USA, Inc. to Extend the Term of the Agreement for One Year
- 7.9. Consideration of Resolution 2022-09 UA, Approving the Award of an Agreement for the Installation of Altitude Valves at San Gorgonio Reservoirs to Canyon Springs Enterprises in the amount of \$552,975, Authorizing Staff to Purchase Two Altitude Valves and Setting a Total Project Budget of \$708,272.50
- 7.10. Consideration of Resolution 2022-95, Adopting an Amended Conflict of Interest Code Containing Revised Designated Positions and Disclosure Categories, and Repealing Resolution 2020-96

Public Comments

Frank Burgess asked about purchasing requirements regarding agenda item 6.3, which the City Attorney assured him had not been illegal. On agenda item 6.4, he commented that city should not be paying employees to

volunteer on the taxpayers' dime. For item 6.5, Mr. Burgess complained there was no dollar amounts included. He asked to have 5 minutes to comment on each agenda item.

City Attorney Ennis responded to each of his concerns.

Staff explained that agenda item 6.5 was a contract for on-call services, which establishes a list of qualified vendors from which the city may contract with. Each individual contract will go before Council with a budget for approval before being executed.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace
Seconded by Council Member Sanchez

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	✗				
Happe, David					✗
Pingree, Kyle	✗				
Sanchez, Alberto	✗				
Wallace, Colleen	✗				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- 7.1. Consideration of Resolution 2022-101, Adopting Amendments to Water Shortage Contingency Plan of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Director of Public Works, Art Vela, presented the staff report.

Public Comments

Diego Rose commented on what he called the narrative of hoarding water, saying that Banning and Beaumont were special and did not need to do that.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-101.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace
Seconded by Mayor Pingree

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	✗				
Happe, David					✗
Pingree, Kyle	✗				
Sanchez, Alberto	✗				
Wallace, Colleen	✗				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

Mayor Pingree announced a recess at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8.1. Lion's Park Ballfield Lighting Project Financing Plan Disclosures

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report, explaining this was a housekeeping item to provide the public and City Council with required financing disclosures under the relevant Government Code.

Public Comments

Frank Burgess commented that the City should borrow the money from the Electric Utility in order to return the interest payments to the taxpayers.

Diego Rose said he had a more wholistic view of government, but that public utilities should reduce rates. He said none of the investments made by the Electric Utility had ever resulted in a rate decrease for customers. He suggested the utility had a lot of money in its coffers that was the citizens' money.

Frank Connolly asked about the 4.58 financing rate, suggesting the Electric Utility should finance the Park project itself.

City Manager Schulze clarified that the contract had already been approved and this agenda item was to provide legally required financial disclosures. No Council action was requested or under consideration.

8.2. Consideration of Resolution 2022-97, Designating Juneteenth as an Official City Holiday

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

Public Comments

Frank Burgess commented that the City Council would not consider what was best for the citizens of Banning, but that recognizing this additional city holiday would costs the citizens "thousands and thousands" of dollars.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-97.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace
Seconded by Council Member Hamlin

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X

Pingree, Kyle	X
Sanchez, Alberto	X
Wallace, Colleen	X

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

8.3. Report on City Treasurer Duties and Responsibilities/Scope of Comments under Brown Act

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

Public Comments

Inge Schuler said she had been concerned for decades about the Finance Director's "duty creep" taking away the City Treasurer's duties. She said due to discrepancies she felt staff were providing Council with misinformation and therefore disagreed with purported attempts to make the Treasurer an appointed position. Ms. Schuler suggested previous staff were terminated for reporting that the city was about to go broke, whereas an elected official would not have to "worry about [their] job."

Diego Rose commented on his view of the City Council's role. He said the people did not have access to their government and disagreed with taking away representation from the people.

Alejandro Geronimo said he had experience in finance with the County and Library District. He commented he was not aware of his duties as City Treasurer when elected and had met with City leadership regarding his role "to no avail." Mr. Geronimo discussed concerns he had about City Council staff reports and delayed financial reporting, in addition to the City needing new financial software. He advocated for a spot on the regular meeting agenda and to return all reporting duties to the City Treasurer, stating the City Manager had been "gunning for his position" and he would not let this happen.

Frank Burgess asked if the City Manager had worked with the City Treasurer to provide "figures he was supposed to have." He asked if the City was complying with the California statutes. He commented that it was a "fallacy of the City Council" for them not to respond to his questions, saying he had been working very hard on the recall and "you're next."

Cindy Barrington said she wanted to restate the previous comments, stating there were financial irregularities and deficiencies that the City Treasurer has been working hard to rectify. She suggested the City Council would not receive accurate financial reports from staff and had not been in the past. She said the only person they could trust was an elected member of the public.

City Manager Schulze clarified that the agenda item was not regarding whether the position should be appointed or elected, but whether a report should be placed on the City Council agenda. He responded that there had not been mission creep as was stated by a commenter, but that the section of the City's Municipal Code laying out the duties of the City's Finance Director was adopted in 1965. He explained he was not responsible for the changes made at that time and the only time appointment of the City Clerk and Treasurer positions was only researched and proposed in 2019 at the direction of the City Clerk, an elected official.

He stated the agenda topic at present was requested directly by the City Council and was not related to any of the off-topic comments. He restated the options before City Council.

There was Council discussion.

Motion to add City Treasurer report to regular meeting agenda.

Motion by Mayor Pingree

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

City Attorney Ennis added that staff would bring City Council back a revised Procedures Manual to reflect this change at a later date.

8.4. Consideration of Resolution 2022-94, Calling for Placement of a Measure on the Ballot at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

There was Council discussion.

Public Comments

Frank Burgess asked how much money was currently being transferred from the Electric Utility to the General Fund.

Staff responded that only costs attributable to the Electric Utility through a Cost of Service Analysis are currently being transferred. No additional funding can be transferred above direct costs unless there is voter approval.

Staff indicated it was about \$1.7 million annually not including insurance costs.

Frank Burgess asked when the next electric rate increase would occur.

Staff responded that the next increase, of 3.5%, would take effect January 1, 2023.

Frank Connolly thanked Council Member Sanchez for the recommendation that a timed renewal be included. He said he was not opposed to the increase but disagreed with including “general municipal purposes” in the language of the measure. Mr. Connolly said he would be against the measure if it would go into the General Fund as a “slush fund,” emphasizing it should be strictly for the parks.

City Attorney Ennis responded that if the measure was dedicated to parks and parks maintenance only, it would qualify as a special tax requiring a two-thirds vote of the residents. Under a state law, including “general municipal purposes” allows it to be a general tax that only requires a majority vote.

He added that the measure would be subject to independent financial audits and citizen oversight through a five-person committee to monitor the use of funds.

Cindy Barrington said her personal utility bill would increase by \$25 a month or \$300 a year and disagreed with the staff report saying the average customer would see an annual increase of \$90. She recalled a lawsuit against the City of Riverside involving a utility paying into the general fund and said she thought a lot of City projects were being funded by the City’s enterprise fund. Ms. Barrington said they needed to be careful about what the City was asking for in the measure and wanted to know where the funds would be going toward. She mentioned water utility uses for the funds.

Peggy Murphy said she was a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and she thought the City Council was going to have a hard time selling this measure. She said citizens would support the added charge if they knew it was going toward parks and parks maintenance. She emphasized the Council would need to help citizens understand what the tax would fund.

There was Council discussion.

Staff clarified that there was not a single well in the City that exceeded the Chromium-6 standard and the enterprise fund was the Electric Utility fund. It is considered to be an enterprise and therefore is qualified as an enterprise type fund. Staff said they were aware of the transfer issues and that was not occurring at this time.

There was further Council discussion.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-94 with the addition of language to sunset the tax in four years.

Motion by Council Member Sanchez
No second. The motion failed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-94.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace
Seconded by Council Member Hamlin

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	✗				
Happe, David					✗
Pingree, Kyle	✗				
Sanchez, Alberto	✗				
Wallace, Colleen	✗				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

8.5. City Attorney Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment

City Attorney Ennis and Assistant City Attorney Serita Young recused themselves for this agenda item.

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

Public Comments

Frank Burgess said that the report stated “in excess of 3 percent” without a figure, and that they could ask for 20 percent or more.

Staff explained the contract was approved in 2017 and they would not recommend the contract today. They agreed that for any future contract they plan to specify both a minimum and maximum percentage it would be allowed to increase annually.

Motion to approve a 10.04% increase to current rates under the agreement with Richards, Watson & Gershon.

Motion by Council Member Sanchez
Seconded by Mayor Pingree

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	✗				

Happe, David		X
Pingree, Kyle	X	
Sanchez, Alberto	X	
Wallace, Colleen	X	

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

8.6. Fiscal Year 2023 City Council Travel and Conference Expense Allocation

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

Public Comments

None

Motion to divide between 5 members equally and any exceptions to be considered by Council.

Motion by Mayor Pingree

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

8.7. Pingree Resignation

Motion to acknowledge this agenda item came to their attention after the agenda was posted and needed to be discussed before their next Regular City Council Meeting which was not scheduled until August 23, 2022.

Motion by Mayor Pingree

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

City Manager Schulze presented the staff report.

Public Comments

Cindy Barrington said as a resident of District 2, she was concerned about an appointed position serving two-and-a-half years. She asked for a special election.

Motion to direct staff to fill the position via appointment.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wallace

Seconded by Council Member Sanchez

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Hamlin, Mary	X				
Happe, David					X
Pingree, Kyle	X				
Sanchez, Alberto	X				
Wallace, Colleen	X				

Motion approved by a vote of 4-0, with 1 absence.

9. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

None

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

10.1. New Items

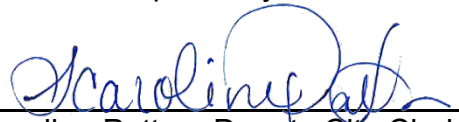
10.2. Pending Items:

1. Affordable Housing Solutions
2. Internship Program
3. ~~Presentation of Homeless Shelter Success Story (Wallace)~~ – Agendized 7/12
4. Traffic Circles/Diverging Diamonds (Happe)
5. Cannabis Regulations (Happe)
6. ~~City Treasurer Report~~ – Agendized 7/12

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pingree adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:


Caroline Patton, Deputy City Clerk

This entire meeting may be viewed here:

<https://banninglive.viebit.com/index.php?folder=City+Council+Meetings>

All documents related to this meeting are available here:

<http://banning.ca.us/Archive.aspx?ADID=2678>

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – City Manager’s Report Presentation

Exhibit B – Public Comment on Agenda Item 8.3

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

July 12, 2022



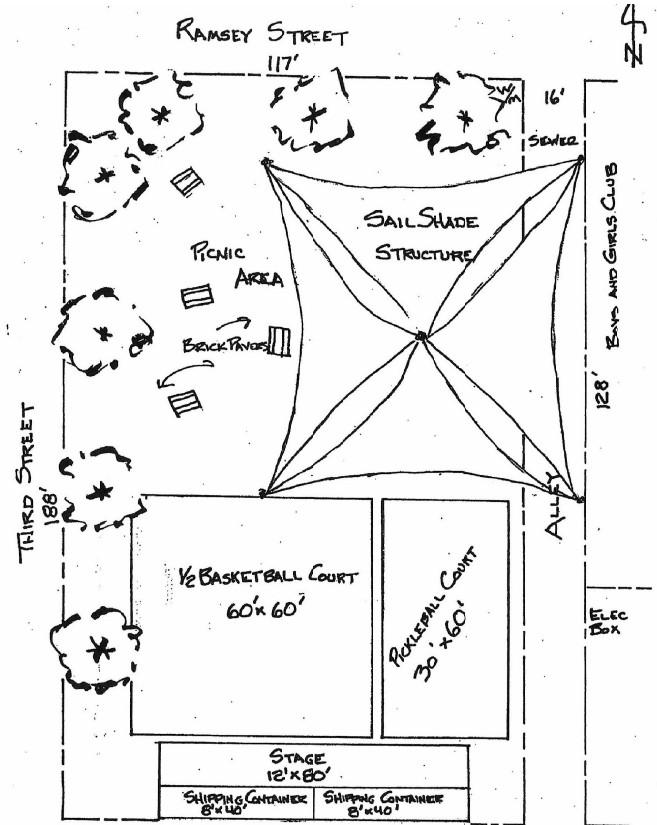
OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE

- Perimeter Fencing Completed
- Pallet Shelters Set Up Awaiting Electric Hook-up
- Security Office Set Up Awaiting Electric Hook-up
- Admin Office Set Up Awaiting Electric Hook-up
- Restroom/Shower/Laundry Unit 1 Awaiting Electric Hook-up
- Picnic Tables/Benches on site
- Occupancy July 18th



SAN GORGONIO PASS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROPOSAL

City-Owned Parcel



MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

- Municipal elections website is now live with all the 2022 information, links and materials: <http://banning.ca.us/525/elections>
- Candidate Information Session this Thursday, July 14th beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Two City Council Districts currently on the ballot for November – Districts 4 & 5
- Nomination Period is July 18th through August 12th
- Members of the public can also set a meeting with City Clerk anytime by emailing CityClerks@banningca.gov

OTHER UPDATES

- Certificate of Recognition from Riverside County Board of Supervisors to Banning Electric
- Certificate of Recognition from Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh for the Ramsey and Hathaway Street Improvement Project



My name is Alejandro Geronimo, the elected City Treasurer. I have worked in local government for 20 years, half of those years I've been tasked with fiscal responsibility. The majority of those years I worked in Accounting & Finance for a large County Department. I have managed several types of Accounting units. I've managed teams of Accountants and Analysts that were responsible for creating and maintaining budgets. And producing complex reports. I'm also the Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Banning Library District. Where I am the Chair for the Budget and Finance Committee. I oversee the Library budget and investments. I have a Bachelors in Business Administration and Masters in Public Administration. It is easy to say that I'm not a stranger to the Treasurer duties listed on the staff report presented to you today.

I believe I was elected as Treasurer because of my experience. And I believed that I would apply that experience to help the City of Banning with its finances. But when I started I didn't receive any direction, orientation, documents, or any type of indication of what my duties were supposed to be. So I started reaching out to the leadership. I first contacted the Director of Administration, Jennifer Christensen. She provided an overview of the finance department but could not give me any direction on my duties. Ms. Cristensen believed the City's Finances were in bad shape and they were heading in the wrong direction. Which I agree, and as you see today we are still skating on thin ice. I was hoping to get more information from her back then. Unfortunately, for circumstances unknown to me, she was no longer employed by the City.

I then reached out to the City Manager, Doug Schultz for a meet and greet. In our conversation, I asked about my duties and how I can take more responsibilities. I was unsuccessful. He could not give me direction.... I also reached out to Department heads, but to no avail.

Because of the lack of direction, I became proactive and started advocating for more Budget in Finance Committee meetings. I asked for them to go from "as needed" to regular meetings. Fortunately the Council approved and now we meet on a regular basis. The reason I thought it was necessary is because I quickly noticed a disturbing trend in the City Council meetings. I noticed that the reports being produced had many discrepancies. Meeting after meeting I notice mistakes. Often the staff reports didn't match the Opengov reports.... Budget amounts didn't match, Opengov was sometimes missing budget entries or had double revenue entries. Other reports lacked transparency. I started working with the recently retired Director of Finance, Suzanne Cook. We worked on clearing the reports up and providing documents that were a little easier to read and understand. The other concern, was the delayed timing of the financial information presented to Council. This was the most alarming trend because the Council did not have the appropriate financial information when making decisions. I

believe this led to the acknowledgement of the antiquated financial system that needs replacing. Updating the system has been ignored for far too long. Note: the City recently allocated funds to purchase a new system.

The question tonight, is whether the City Treasurer should have a spot on the City Council agenda? The question was brought up by a community member. Why? Because the obvious. There is a lack of public trust. The community does not have confidence in the City Finances. They don't have confidence in the information given to them. And they feel that they are not being heard. They need somebody that will speak for them and represent them. So yes, I believe the City Treasurer deserves a spot on the agenda. With that, I also believe that the City Treasurer duties should be given back to the City Treasurer position. These duties belong to the Treasurer. It is important to have accountability. It is important the community have a voice, a representative that will advocate for them, someone who comments on City Finances, whether good or bad, without the fear of retribution.

The City Manager stated in his report, that he is not asking to make the City Treasurer an appointed position. But the fact is, is that he has been gunning for this position for some time. Even before I was elected. In a memo dated March 05, 2020, from City Attorney Kevin Ennis to City Manager Doug Schultz, it gives instructions on how to convert the elected City Clerk and City Treasurer positions to appointed positions.... Do not let this happen.

The City Council needs to give back these duties to the City Treasurer. It is imperative to have a third party entity, autonomous from the City Manager and independent from City Council, to provide accountability and oversight to the City Finances. One of those duties is to appoint deputies who will work under an elected official with the interest of the community. If you are against this, then we want to know why? Why don't you want accountability? Why don't you want the community more involved with City Finances?

For the audience sitting behind me or watching online, I ask you to reach out to your City Council rep and ask those questions. Ask them to reinstate the City Treasurer's duties. Ask why public oversight has been diminished?

As it stands right now, the current system of checks and balances does not favor the community. Is it time to restore that balance.